

Specimen Examined: Orissa: Mayurbhanj district, Aski: 14.ii.2005, CSR 1991 (North Orissa Univ. Herbarium).

***Taxillus bracteatus* (Wall.) Tieghem. (Loranthaceae)**

Taxillus bracteatus (Wall.) Tieghem, Bul. Soc. Bot. France 42: 256.1895. *Loranthus bracteatus* Heyne ex Wall. in Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2: 220.1824. FBI 5: 213.1886; Gamble 2: 1252(876).1925.

Parasitic, evergreen herb; branchlets tawny tomentose. Leaves orbicular, 1.5-4.0 x 1.5-4.0 cm, 3 or 5 nerved from base, pilose pubescent, base rounded to cuneate. Flowers in axillary fascicles, yellow, scarlet red inside, 1 cm across.

Habitat: Rare, partial stem parasite on *Kydia calycina* on savannah hill tops (elevation: above 1,000 m)

Fl. & Fr.: October-March.

Specimen Examined: Orissa: Mayurbhanj district, Meghasani hill: 12.ii.2005, CSR 1916 (North Orissa University Herbarium).

Note: It differs from *Taxillus cuneatus* (Roth.) Dancer in presence of orbicular leaves and tomentose plant parts and flowers, in case of latter leaves are obovate-spatulate, plant parts and flowers are glabrous at maturity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to Dr. P.S. Roy, Deputy Director (RS & GIS, Application area), Dr. M.S.R. Murthy, Head, Forestry & Ecology Division, National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad and Dr. U.B. Mohapatra, Head, Department of Botany, North Orissa University, Baripada for their valuable suggestions and encouragement.

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15. HEDYCHIUM FLAVESCENS CAREY EX ROSCOE – AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF MAHARASHTRA STATE

NILESH V. MALPURE^{1,2} AND S.R. YADAV^{1,3}

¹Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur 416 004, Maharashtra, India.

²Email: nmalpure@rediffmail.com

³Email: sryadavdu@rediffmail.com

Hedychium flavescens Carey ex Roscoe (Family: Zingiberaceae) was recently collected from Tillari region in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state, and this is the first report of its occurrence in Maharashtra. The species was so far reported from southern parts of India (Sabu 2006). The genus *Hedychium* in Maharashtra is now represented by three species, namely *H. coronarium* Koen., *H. flavescens* Carey ex Roscoe and *H. flavum* Roxb. The identity of *H. flavum* Roxb. is uncertain (Sharma *et al.* 1996). In the present paper, the nomenclature of the species along with a note are given for easy identification.

Hedychium flavescens Carey ex Roscoe, Monandr. t. 50. 1825; Wight, Icon. Pl. Indiae Orient. t. 2008 & 2009. 1853; C.E.C. Fisch. in Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 8: 1485. 1928; K.G. Bhat, Fl. Udupi 631. 2003; M. Sabu, Zingiberaceae & Costaceae of South India 199. 2006. *H. coronarium* var. *flavescens* (Roscoe) Baker in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 226. 1892.

Specimen Examined: Maharashtra: Kolhapur, Tillari. 05.ix.2006. Malpure 7 (Shivaji University Herbarium).

Note: The species prefers to grow along streams in evergreen forests at high altitude. The major threat to the species is the alteration of habitat and clearing of the forest for cultivation. The species is now cultivated in the Botanic Garden of the Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. The propagules of the species are also distributed for cultivation in home gardens, which can be an efficient practice for conservation of rare wild ornamental plants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the Head, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for providing facilities and to the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, for financial assistance.

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